

Dear members of the Public Health Committee,

I'm writing in firm opposition to both SB 477 and HB 5397.

SB 477 should be opposed because of Section 7, which

- 1) obtained from ANY legislative or executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state or any organization or other entity such assistance as necessary and available to carry out the purposes **What is "necessary and available" ?**
- 2) FAILS TO DEFINE "other entity" , "duties", "purposes" or "other acts"
- 3) replaces yet again the **Constitution's Second Amendment** with an un-elected Commission having no oversight, and allowed to make its own rules.

HB 5397 should be opposed because

- 1) it **adds TWO layers of government grants and bureaucracy** to the ballooning ambiguity of "violence prevention"
- 2) it offers no justifiable evidence as to WHY an Office of Gun Violence Prevention is needed
bsp;-- we have MYRIADS of quasi-government agencies involved with this problem. Admit failure before creating a NEW office PLUS an Advisory Council designed to simply throw money at more organizations as a "solution"
- 3) Does not address the LACK of criminal prosecution as an INCENTIVE to commit gun violence, nor address self-defense as a valid reason for possession of a firearm.

Neither bill will reduce gun violence; both will create unelected commissions and offices and assign MORE money with NO oversight. Status quo, NOT a solution!!

Please vote NO, or at least REMOVE Section 7 of SB 477.
Please vote NO on HB 5397 altogether.

We can strengthen existing organizations and prosecute violent criminals instead of wasting more money and personnel.

Sincerely,
Paul McVay
Watertown